

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-13 without prejudice. Please add claims 14-41 as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising:

- a) providing a filter article configured to mechanically filter water, the filter article including:
 - i) a first porous filter wall having a first density; and
 - ii) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density that is different than the first density of the first porous filter wall;
- b) filtering aquarium water through the filter article; and
- c) replacing the filter article when the first and second porous filter walls become clogged with retained particles.

15. (New) A replaceable water filter cartridge for mechanically filtering aquarium water, the water filter cartridge comprising:

- a) a first porous filter wall having a first density; and
- b) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density different than the first density of the first porous filter wall.

16. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 15, further including a frame constructed to maintain the relative position of the first porous filter wall and the second porous filter wall during filtration of the aquarium water.

17. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 16, wherein the frame includes a snap connection that holds the frame in relation to the first and second porous filter walls.
18. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 17, wherein the snap connection is a clip that snaps over flaps of the frame.
19. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 16, wherein the first and second porous walls are interconnected to one another to define an interior volume.
20. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 19, wherein the frame is positionable within the interior volume defined by the first and second porous walls.
21. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 16, wherein the frame and the porous filter walls are non-permanently attached to one another.
22. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 16, wherein the frame includes a top frame portion, a bottom frame portion, and side frame portions.
23. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 22, wherein the frame further includes a frame structure extending between the top frame portion and the bottom frame portion.
24. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 22, wherein the top, bottom, and side frame portions define a perimeter of a central frame opening.
25. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 24, wherein the frame further includes at least one frame structure positioned to extend within the central frame opening.
26. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 15, wherein the second density of the second porous filter wall is greater than the first density of the first porous filter wall.

27. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 26, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered by the first porous wall prior to being filtered by the second porous wall.

28. (New) A replaceable filter cartridge for filtering aquarium water,

a) a filtration arrangement having a first porous filter side and a second porous filter side, the first porous filter side having a density different than a density of the second porous filter side, the arrangement including:

i) a first mechanical filtration element configured to mechanically filter the aquarium water;

ii) a second chemical filtration element configured to chemically filter the aquarium water;

iii) a third biological filtration element configured to biologically filter the aquarium water; and

b) a frame constructed to maintain each of the first, second, and third filtration elements of the filtration arrangement in a spatial relationship relative to one another.

29. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the mechanical filtration element includes a porous filter construction that defines the first porous side of the filtration arrangement.

30. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 29, wherein the porous filter construction of the mechanical filtration element includes at least a first filter wall constructed of a porous filter material.

31. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 30, wherein the chemical filtration element includes activated carbon, and wherein the first filter wall partially defines a volume for containing the activated carbon of the chemical filtration element.

32. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein the first mechanical filtration element defines the first porous side of the filtration arrangement, the first porous side of the filtration arrangement being an inflow side.

33. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein a flow of aquarium water is filtered first by the mechanical filtration element, then filtered by the chemical filtration element, and then filtered by the biological filtration element.

34. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 33, wherein the chemical filtration element includes activated carbon, and wherein the biological filtration element includes a frame structure, the frame structure being surrounded by the activated carbon such that chemical filtration of the aquarium water occurs prior to biological filtration of the aquarium water.

35. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 34, wherein the mechanical filtration element includes a porous filter construction defining an interior volume, and wherein the activated carbon of the chemical filtration element is contained within the interior volume of a porous filter construction such that chemical filtration of the aquarium water occurs after mechanical filtration of the aquarium water.

36. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 28, wherein each of the first, second and third filtration elements is separable from the remaining filtration elements.

37. (New) The filter cartridge of claim 28 wherein the biological filtration element is separable from the mechanical filtration element.

38. (New) A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a filter cartridge having a first porous filter side and a second porous filter side, the first porous filter side having a density different than a density of the second porous filter side;

b) placing the filter cartridge within a filter housing, the filter housing being in fluid communication with water contained within an aquarium;

c) mechanically filtering a flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge;

d) chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge; and

e) biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water through the filter cartridge.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of mechanically filtering the flow of aquarium water occurs prior to chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water, and the step of chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water occurs prior to biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of mechanically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes filtering the flow of aquarium water through a porous filter wall.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of chemically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes filtering the flow of aquarium water through activated carbon.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of biologically filtering the flow of aquarium water includes providing a structure for growth of organisms active in biological filtration, and filtering the flow of aquarium water across the structure.

43. (New) A method of filtering aquarium water, the method comprising:

a) providing a filter article configured to mechanically filter water, the filter article including:

i) a first porous filter wall having a first density; and

ii) a second porous filter wall spaced apart from the first porous filter wall, the second porous filter wall having a second density that is different than the first density of the first porous filter wall;

b) filtering aquarium water through the filter article; and

- c) replacing the filter article when either the first or second porous filter walls become clogged with retained particles.